

The 4 C's to 21st Century Skills

The 4 C's to 21st century skills are just what the title indicates. Students need these specific skills to fully participate in today's global community: Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity.

Communication

- Students need to be able to share their thoughts, questions, ideas and solutions.

Collaboration

- Students need to be able to work together to reach a goal while putting their talent, expertise and knowledge in action.

Critical Thinking

- Students need to be able to look at problems in new ways and link learning across subject areas.

Creativity

- Students need to be willing to try new approaches to get things done. This leads to innovation and invention.

To encourage development of these skills, we must intentionally focus on the design of program activities.

We need to give students the opportunity to take ownership for their learning. They should move toward becoming developers of knowledge rather than consumers of knowledge. Our out-of-school time environment should enable students to move beyond typical methods of study, such as writing an essay after reading about a topic, to tackling a relevant problem, such as bullying. We must encourage students to create a project that allows them to share their findings and impact change.